

# Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

## Obstetrics and Gynecology

The *Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants* is a collaborative effort between the Organization of Program Directors Association (OPDA), Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and American Medical Association (AMA). Its purpose is to provide specialty-specific guidance, application information, and resources. This guide outlines specialty-level guidance and policies for applicants to Obstetrics and Gynecology programs.

Specialty responses in this guide were provided through a standardized web form. The corresponding questions from that form are referenced in the footnotes. If a specialty indicated "No specialty recommendation to programs," it means the specialty does not provide guidance on how programs should approach that aspect of the selection process.

Please note that not all aspects of the residency application process are standardized at the specialty level. Applicants should review individual program requirements in Residency Explorer™ tool, FREIDA™, or on program websites.

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# Specialty Guidance for the 2025–2026 Cycle

Obstetrics and Gynecology has published a statement: <https://apgo.org/page/rrrapplclicant>

## Application Process

Application Process Details	Specialty Recommendation
Main Residency Match Season	ResidencyCAS
Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)	ResidencyCAS
Application deadline to be considered for interview <sup>1</sup>	Application deadline of 09/24/2025 Universal offer date 10/28/2025
Application materials accepted after the deadline <sup>2</sup>	No specialty recommendation to programs

**Additional Deadline Guidance:** None noted.

## Match Platform

Obstetrics and Gynecology participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Program Signals

Program Signals Details	Specialty Recommendation
Number of signals	3 gold, 15 silver
Signal home institution or away rotation sites?	Yes

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

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<sup>1</sup> By when should applicants submit applications to programs to be considered for interview?: Date applications are released to programs; Universal interview offer date for the specialty; Other

<sup>2</sup> Is it acceptable for applicants to submit some application materials after the initial application?: Yes; No

## Use of USMLE and/or COMLEX-USA Scores

License Exam Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be considered for interview<sup>3</sup></b>	No specialty recommendation to programs
<b>Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be ranked<sup>4</sup></b>	No specialty recommendation to programs
<b>USMLE transcripts required for DO applicants?<sup>5</sup></b>	No specialty recommendation to programs

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

LOR Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Required number of LORs</b>	1 - 3 or 4 (including SLOE) based on individual program requirements
<b>Required specialty-specific letters<sup>6</sup></b>	Specialty-specific standardized letter(s) of evaluation (e.g., SLOE, SEL, SLOR), Letter from a Chair

**Additional Guidance for Specialty-Specific Letters:** Besides SLOE, two to three other traditional LORs based on each program's requirement.

**Guidance for Transitional Year/Prelim Programs:** None noted.

**Guidance for IMG Applicants:** None noted.

<sup>3</sup> By when must an applicant submit a USMLE Step 2 CK or COMLEX-USA Level 2 CE score to be considered for interview?: Initial application deadline; Other

<sup>4</sup> By when must an applicant submit a USMLE Step 2 CK or COMLEX-USA Level 2 CE score to be ranked?: Initial application deadline; Prior to rank order list opening

<sup>5</sup> Does your specialty require that DO applicants submit USMLE scores in addition to COMLEX-USA scores?: Yes, USMLE scores are required for all applicants; No, USMLE scores are not required for DO applicants

<sup>6</sup> Which specialty-specific letters of recommendation should an applicant submit to a program? (Select all that apply): Specialty-specific standardized letter(s) of evaluation (e.g., SLOE, SEL, SLOR); Letter from a Chair; Letter from someone in the specialty (e.g., faculty, attending); Other letters

## Supplemental Information

Supplemental Application Materials	Specialty Recommendation
Supplemental application materials recommended	No specialty recommendation to programs

**Additional Supplemental Application Materials:** None noted.

## Away Rotations

Away Rotation Details	Specialty Recommendation
Away rotations in the specialty <sup>7</sup>	Not required or recommended
Number of away rotations in the specialty	–

**Additional Guidance:** Not expected. Exception if no advanced ObGyn rotation (SubI or AI) available at your medical school.

## Interviews

Interview Details	Specialty Recommendation
Universal interview offer date(s)	Universal release date 10/28/2025
Typical interview offer window	–
Interview scheduling platform	Residency CAS recommended but not required
Interview format(s) <sup>8</sup>	Virtual

**Additional Guidance:** All virtual interviews recommended by ACOG/CREOG/APGO/and our Chairs organization in ObGyn (CUCOG).

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<sup>7</sup> Does the specialty expect or strongly recommend that applicants complete away rotations in the specialty?: No; Strongly recommended; Expected

<sup>8</sup> Which interview format does the specialty recommend that programs use? (Select all that apply): Virtual; In-person; Hybrid

## **Applicant Communications**

**Pre-Interview Communication Guidance:** This is what signaling is for. Not recommended.

**Post-Interview Communication Guidance:** Applicants should ask programs when they interview what they expect. Programs should be transparent about their wishes.

## **Open Houses / Second Looks**

**Open Houses:** None noted.

**Second Looks:** They should be optional if offered at all and not used to determine ranking. Programs should consider submitting their rank order list in advance to mitigate the risk of bias.

**NRMP Voluntary Rank Order List (ROL) Lock Pilot Initiative:** No